NOTES *(Contd.)*

Amery that he should concede freedom to India without any equivocation, if Indian troops unanimously voted for the same at the end of the war. How very simple and innocent too! It was left to the lot of Mr. Satyamurthi to stumble upon that precious bit of brainwave to the utter inantification of saints and politicians alike at Wardha and Whitehall. Perhaps the offer would have been more in line with the traditions of his race if Mr. Satyamurthi had suggested that the matter of Indian freedom be decided by a toss. Hindu literature is replete with instances of sportsmanship of the Raja Nul brand who once went to the length of staking his kingdom and all, Rani Damyanti not excepted. Mr. Satyamurthi in his offer accepts the principle of unanimity in the matter of determination of political status for India. But it is the unanimity of the Indian troops—who, according to the Congress, are fighting for British imperialism in a war in which India had not been consulted—that he accepts and not of the general public. The Musalmans could as well have thrown an offer of accepting the verdict of the Muslim soldiers on the question of Pakistan, and safely too, had they regarded their position so untenable as to depend upon chance than on logic or the sanction behind the demand.

CONGRESS KITE-FLYING

Acharya Kriplani's recent statement in connection with a Hindu-Muslim settlement comes as a painful surprise to those who have been following the trend of events. As early as May 1937, Mr. Jinnah was anxious to meet Mr. Gandhi and he actually wrote to the latter initiating an approach to Hindu-Muslim problem. The reply received from Mr, Gandhi from Teethal was most disappointing. Later, however, when the correspondence between Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah was resumed, the former in his letter, dated February 15, 1938, wrote to the latter. "Believe me, the moment I can do something that can bring the two communities together, nothing in the world can prevent me from so doing." Mr. Jinnah wrote back to say: "Now, what am I to gather from this? Am I right in interpreting that the moment is not come?" Whether Mr. Jinnah was right or wrong in interpreting Mr. Gandhi's attitude, will be evident from what Mr. Gandhi wrote to Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru on March 7, 1941--"And what I fear is that the time for communal settlement has not come."

Acharya Kriplani goes on to say; "the Congress bides its time and waits for a favourable opportunity" Perhaps it is awaiting the result of its manoevres, intended to bring round the British Government to forcing upon India a political system of the Congress patern. Acharya Kriplani says further: "If however, Mr. Jinnah is desirous of establishing contact with the Congress, nothing stands in the way of his doing so, and Gandhiji, who has never stood on the false idea of dignity, would meet even at Mr. Jinnah's own place.....Ways were always open to Mr. Jinnah and he had only to write to Mahatma Gandhi." Mr. Jinnah has always been "ready and will-

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India and Majority Rule

(*By* ORPHEUS)

"India must give up, as Europe has to give up, simple majority rule. It did not work in Czecho-Slovakia, or Poland; it did not work in the United Kingdom, treated as one whole without reference to the Irish minority. And the fear of simple majority rule to this day keeps Ulster out of Eire." These words deserve deep thinking and searching of the hearts by the advocates of democracy or simple majority rule in India on basis of a constitution to be framed by the grandiloquent body called "Constituent Assembly"

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ing to see Mr. Gandhi or any other Hindu leader on behalf of the Hindu community." Mr. Gandhi, on the other hand, has been "obsessed by the notion that he holds a transcendental status far above controversies; but then there is no denying the fact that he is the dictator of the Congress."

The object of such a meeting would be "the creation of a Hindu Muslim *concordat* in which parties should weigh their capacity for adjustments both in their own views and in the expectation of their followers," for which it is but fair that the two participants should have the authority to deliver the goods on behalf of their respective communities and to get the agreement, so arrived at, ratified. If, therefore, Mr. Gandhi is not willing to meet Mr. Jinnah in the capacity of a Hindu representative, does Acharaya Kriplani expect Mr. Jinnah to discuss with Mr. Gandhi the nutrition of *Soya* beans and the nourishing qualities of goat's milk?

which is to be constituted guided by the counting of heads and hands. That is the fond dream of those who want to establish *Hindu Raj* in India through subterfuge of simple majority rule.

By the way, whose are the words quoted at the outset? Is it the reactionary utterance of a Muslim Leaguer or Pakistanist, out to sabbotage simple majority rule and "vivisect Mother India"? No, it is not. He is Mr. Arthur Moore, Editor of the *Statesman*, who can certainly be credited with the fullest sense of responsibility about the burden of his utterance and who belongs to a race whose democratic ideals are the dreams and aspirations of our "nationalist" compatriots.

If simple majority rule has failed in western countries, it is a day-dream to try the experiment in the vast sub-continent of India with innumerable races, religions, cultures and outlooks, not only widely but fundamentally differing from one another. Democracy can function only if the constituents agree to work it harmoniously. Such harmony, again, is possible if the majority enjoys the confidence of the minorities. The so-called nationalists got the chance of proving their *bana fides* and goodwill towards the minorities in seven out of eleven provinces in India during the Congress regime. But the majority have completely forfeited the confidence of the minorities. Democracy now lies guillotined. There may be a sporting chance for democracy only if the Pakistan Scheme of the Muslim League is implemented. In that case, the two major elements in India may try the experiment in their respective zones. India, as constituted at present, is totally unsuitable for democracy. This is what the Muslim League and Mr. Jinnah are trying to bring home to all concerned.